

If

A Poem by Rudyard Kipling

Lyrics: Rudyard Kipling, arr. (c) Toby Darling 2013

1

If you can keep your head when all a-

5

-bout you, are losing theirs and blaming it on you If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you But make allowance for their

9

doubting too If you can wait and not be tired by waiting or being

13

lied about don't deal in lies Or being hated don't give way to hating and yet don't look

17

too good nor talk too wise

If you can dream---and not make dreams your master;
If you can think---and not make thoughts your aim,
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same:
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build'em up with worn-out tools;
If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings,
And never breathe a word about your loss:
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!"

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings---nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much:
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And---which is more---you'll be a Man, my son!

[end on G chord]